

**IN THE UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT
FOR THE MIDDLE DISTRICT OF PENNSYLVANIA**

PATTY A. DUVALL-DUNCAN,	:	CIVIL ACTION NO. 1:14-CV-17
	:	
Plaintiff	:	(Chief Judge Conner)
	:	
v.	:	
	:	
CAROLYN W. COLVIN, Acting Commissioner of Social Security,	:	
	:	
Defendant	:	

ORDER

AND NOW, this 16th day of March, 2015, upon consideration of the report (Doc. 11) of Magistrate Judge Gerald B. Cohn, recommending the court vacate the decision of the administrative law judge (“ALJ”) and remand the above-captioned matter for further proceedings with respect to the application for disability benefits of plaintiff Patty A. Duvall-Duncan, wherein Judge Cohn concludes that the ALJ’s decision is not supported by substantial evidence, see 42 U.S.C. § 405(g) (requiring the ALJ’s findings to be “supported by substantial evidence”), and finds that the ALJ failed to adequately explain his rejection of certain “obviously probative” medical opinions regarding plaintiff’s physical and psychological impairments, to properly develop a residual functional capacity based on physician assessments, and to conduct a proper drug addiction and alcoholism (“DAA”) assessment, and it appearing that neither the plaintiff nor the Commissioner of Social Security (“Commissioner”) has objected to the report, and that the Commissioner expressly waived the opportunity to do so, (see Doc. 20), and it further appearing that there is

no clear error on the face of the record,¹ see Nara v. Frank, 488 F.3d 187, 194 (3d Cir. 2007) (explaining that “failing to timely object to [a report and recommendation] in a civil proceeding may result in forfeiture of *de novo* review at the district court level”), it is hereby ORDERED that:

1. The report (Doc. 11) of Magistrate Judge Cohn is ADOPTED.
2. The Clerk of Court shall enter judgment in favor of Patty A. Duvall-Duncan and against the Commissioner as set forth in the following paragraph.

¹ When parties fail to timely object to a magistrate judge’s report and recommendation, the Federal Magistrates Act does not require a district court to review the report before accepting it. See Thomas v. Arn, 474 U.S. 140, 149 (1985). As a matter of good practice, however, the Third Circuit expects courts to “afford some level of review to dispositive legal issues raised by the report.” Henderson v. Carlson, 812 F.2d 874, 878 (3d Cir. 1987). The advisory committee notes to Rule 72(b) of the Federal Rules of Civil Procedure indicate that “[w]hen no timely objection is filed, the court need only satisfy itself that there is no clear error on the face of the record in order to accept the recommendation.” Fed. R. Civ. P. 72(b), advisory committee notes; see also Henderson, 812 F.2d at 878-79 (stating that “the failure of a party to object to a magistrate’s legal conclusions may result in the loss of the right to *de novo* review in the district court”); Tice v. Wilson, 425 F. Supp. 2d 676, 680 (W.D. Pa. 2006) (holding that the court’s review is conducted under the “plain error” standard); Cruz v. Chater, 990 F. Supp. 375-78 (M.D. Pa. 1998) (holding that the court’s review is limited to ascertaining whether there is “clear error on the face of the record”); Oldrati v. Apfel, 33 F. Supp. 2d 397, 399 (E.D. Pa. 1998) (holding that the court will review the report and recommendation for “clear error”). The court reviews the Magistrate Judge’s report in accordance with this Third Circuit directive.

3. The Commissioner's decision denying Patty A. Duvall-Duncan's application for disability insurance benefits is VACATED. This matter is REMANDED to the Commissioner with instructions to conduct a new administrative hearing, develop the record fully, and evaluate the evidence appropriately in accordance with this order and the report (Doc. 11) of Magistrate Judge Cohn.
4. The Clerk of Court is directed to close this case.

/S/ CHRISTOPHER C. CONNER

Christopher C. Conner, Chief Judge
United States District Court
Middle District of Pennsylvania